

Waitsfield Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Waitsfield Town Office

Present: Mark, Nancy, Robin, and George Jr.

6:05: Meeting begins.

1. Review of minutes of July 25, 2023 Unanimously approved.
 - a. One correction noted: 4f- Francois Borel inquired about a burial, not a cemetery plot.
2. President's Report: Mark Unanimously approved.
 - a. Mark met with Bob Cook to ask if the Cemetery Commission could meet with the Cemetery Trustees to discuss and better understand finances. Bob suggested that we hold off on that meeting until the fall when all the Trustees will be in town and available to meet.
 - b. Mark suggested he and Bob Cook meet with Annie to request the \$17,000 that was approved as part of the annual town budget for 2023/2024.
 - i. Nancy reported that she talked with Annie about the \$17,000 within the past few weeks. Annie said that we need to submit a formal written request to the town and she will get us a check. Nancy provided a draft request and the commissioners unanimously approved Nancy submitting the request with the town.
3. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Unanimously approved.
 - a. Nancy provided the August 2023 Financial Report. George clarified that the \$730 deposit was for a lot purchase for Brightbull and the \$900 deposit was for the Brightbull burial.
 - b. Nancy gave the requested documents (including the checkbook and receipts) for the annual town audit to Randy and he said we can expect to get it back in a couple of weeks.
4. Sexton's Report: George Jr. Unanimously approved.
 - a. 7/26 double burial of Elaine Kaufman and Daniel Weinstock, cremation.
 - b. George Jr. passed on the task of mocking up the chainlink fence modifications for the Irasville Cemetery to Mark who will give it a try.
 - c. George Jr. doesn't plan to get anymore quotes for headstone repairs until we know that we have the funds to move forward with the work.
 - i. While there are a few broken headstones, they don't present any issues other than aesthetics and repair can be delayed for a year if necessary.
 - d. George Jr. got a request about putting cremation ashes directly in the ground without them being in a box or urn. Unanimously approved that we add a by-law

stating that placement of ashes directly into the ground without a container is at the discretion of the sexton.

5. Old Business:

- a. Tree Donation Plan: Report postponed until next meeting. Laura will talk with Annie, Town Manager, and/or a Selectboard person or two to see if there might be interest in setting this up. A Street Memory Tree plan might be found on the WCC page on the Town website.
- b. Headstone Repair: See Sexton's Report.
- c. Irasville Cemetery fence repair:
 - i. See Sexton's Report re: mock-up of proposed fence modification.
 - ii. Laura will contact Bruce Hyde, Mehurons, again to discuss the fence and his delivery trucks. Report postponed until next meeting.
- d. Lot Deeds: Custom lot deed certificates are just \$62 for a book of 50 so it makes sense to customize the certificates. The certificate can be two colors, black and another color from the options available by the printer.
 - i. Mark shared a draft he mocked up of what the certificate will say.
 - ii. Robin suggested we be clear about the title of the certificate based on info on the printing website. Should it be Cemetery Deed or Cemetery Lot Certificate? Mark will talk with Annie and get her opinion or ask her to direct him to someone who has the answer.
 - iii. Robin will look into whether the stub can be modified in addition to the certificate itself.
- e. Cemetery page on Town website: Mark will follow up with Annie again about making the changes.
- f. NEMRC: Robin is interested in this project. She and Mark will plan on making an appointment with Jennifer in November to delve into NEMRC on the Town computer system as this is a good winter project.
- g. Amendment to the Bylaws re. the foundation under headstones and burying cremation ashes directly in the ground (see Sexton's Report). Mark will draft the amendment to be voted on at the September meeting.
- h. Cemetery Funding: See the president's report and the treasurer's report.
- i. Historic walking tours: to be continued. Robin and Laura.

6. New business: None

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023. 6pm. Waitsfield Town Office.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin McDermott for Laura Brines, WCC secretary